THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The Central Inland Water Transport Corporation was established to operate IWT service. The Corporation has been operating cargo services on the following routes :—

Assam—Bangladesh
Calcutta—Pandu
Pandu—Calcutta
Calcutta—Karimganj
Karimganj—Calcutta
Calcutta—Bangladesh
Bangladesh—Calcutta
Calcutta—Patna
Patna—Calcutta
Calcutta—Haldia
Haldia—Calcutta
Calcutta—Internal
Bihar—Internal
Haldia—Nayachara
Saugor—Operations
Haldia—Budge Budge.

A Protocol on Inland Water Tarnsit and Trade has been in existence since 1972 between Governments of India and Bangladesh which provides for transit facilities for the Indian vessels through Bangladesh Waterways and also for inter-country traffic.

In the Sixth Plan, 42 new vessels were acquired by the Corporation at a total cost of Rs. 36.80 crores. Further 63 more vessels are being acquired at a total cost of Rs. 68.80 crores under a scheme sanctioned in the Seventh Plan. With the acqusition of new vessels, the cargo carrying capacity will be enhanced to 10 lakh tonnes per annum.

Water-Propelled Jet Service

1916. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to Start water-propelled Jet Serivce System between Calcutta and Haldia;

(b) if so, whether similar service is being planned for other Sectors, specially between Balia-Chhapra Patna; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The Government have sanctioned a scheme of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Calcutta for acquisition of one hovercraft to run superfast passenger service between Calcutta and Haldia on experimental basis at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.65 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Ban on plying of cars and two-wheelers in Delhi

1917. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to impose a ban on plying of cars and two-wheelers in the Capital on Saturdays and Sundays alternatively;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) in what manner Government propose to implement the plan; and

(d) the quantity of petroleum products likely to be saved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.